



TASK FORCE FALCON



# Falcon Flier

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## TFF soldiers give children place to play

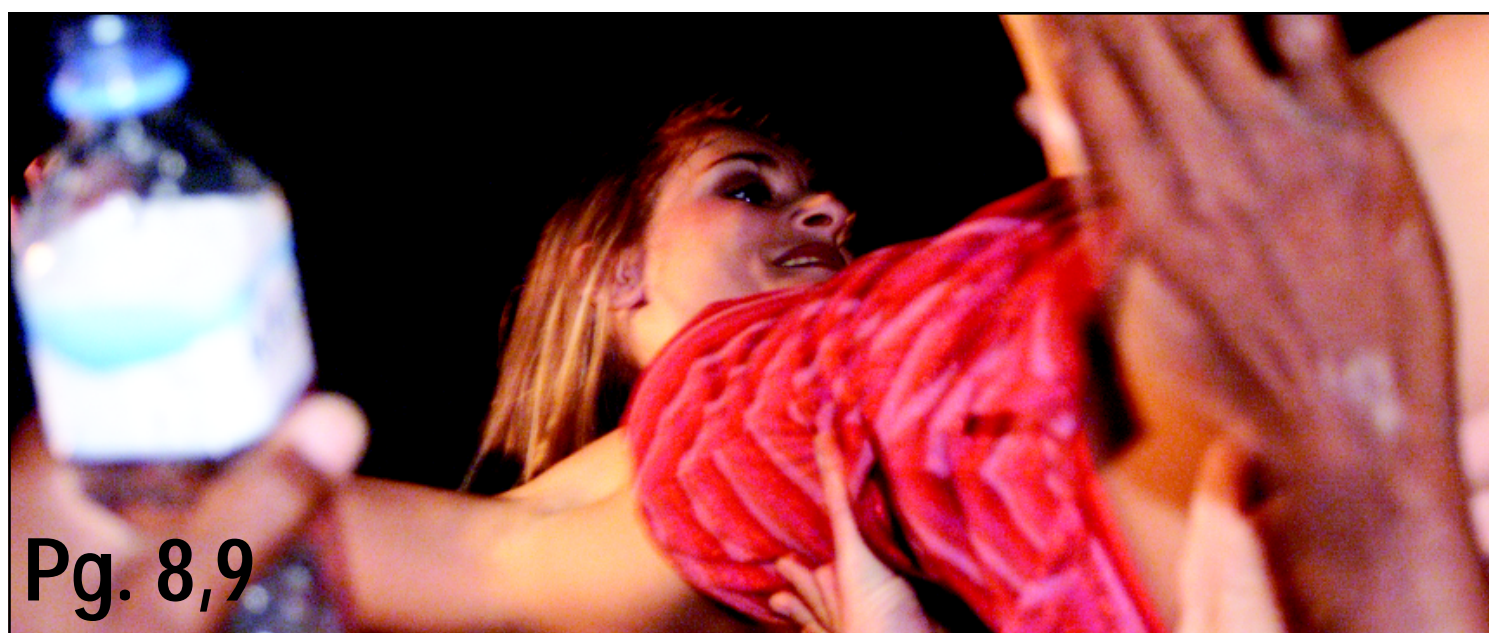
**4th Civil Affairs Group and the 3-7th Infantry Regiment team up to give a brand new playground to the local children near Velekince/Valekince, Kosovo.**



**Pg. 10**

Photo by Spc. Engels Tejeda

A local child swings through the monkey bars during the opening of one of 14 playground projects headed by the 4th Civil Affairs Group.



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Photo by Spc. Marshall Thompson

Mandy Gasparich, a vocalist and dancer for Liquid Blue, stage dives into the crowd during a show in Kosovo.

**Liquid Blue brings one of the best rock shows ever to TFF soldiers in Kosovo.**



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Photo by Spc. Scott Holdsworth

*right:* A soldier from the 2-5-2nd Infantry Regiment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, inspects a cellar during a cordon and search.

*left:* Spc. Mark Gonzalez from 11th Engineer Battalion etches his way down the back of a future weapons range near Vlastica, Kosovo.



**Pg. 3**

Photo by Spc. Maria Jaramillo







## Doing well, still room to improve

**Story by Brig. Gen. Bill David  
Task Force Falcon Commander**

Most of us have passed the midway point in this rotation. First semester is over. I thought you might want to see how your report card looks. Here goes.

Class, you will remember that we had four goals when school started. The goals were to accomplish the mission, leave this place better than we found it, take care of each other – being safe, and establishing personal improvement goals.

On accomplishing the mission I grade performance with an A+. Some of the tests that you were given included: interdicting the NLA, overcoming challenges of a border blockade, reducing excess, maintaining equipment, establishing traffic control points, conducting Bright Skies illumination missions, and EOD responses. We'll continue to be tested. Be relentless!

As for leaving this place better than we found it you get another A+. We have introduced efficiencies that reduced our guard force. Improvements were made to remote sites. And our outpost upgrade plan is in full stride. Our MEDCAPs, DENTCAPs, VETCAPs, OPTCAPs have bettered the lives of all Kosovars. We have committed \$5 million in HCA projects this year. Keep it up!

When it comes to taking care of each other – being safe, the grades drop. I'd say we deserve a B-. We still have too many vehicle accidents. There have been a couple of near misses where there could have been a fatality. We must do better. Let's get this to an A for our final report.

And then we have establishing personal improvement goals - mental, physical, and spiritual. I'm afraid another B- is in order. 90 percent are doing what is required and they get an A+. But the class average is brought down by the 10 percent who just have not gotten with any part of the program.

Only 25 percent of TFF attends church regularly - better hope that God forgives your oversight - better hope it's not too late. Only 20 percent are enrolled in Army Continuing Education - shame on those who did not take advantage of this opportunity. And quite a few folks seem to be doing their PT at the DFAC - get with the program now!

The bottom line is that we're good. We're very good. In fact, we're pretty close to great. Still, there is room for improvement. Let's do it. Be relentless!

## What leaders are expected to do for their soldiers

**Story by  
Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill  
Task Force Falcon CSM**

Most leaders are quick to tell their subordinates exactly what their expectations are. In most cases, they leave no doubt in the soldier's mind about the keys to success. Those who strive to live up to those expectations or conform to the standards are most likely successful. I often ask leaders if they know what their soldiers expect of them. Surprisingly, they don't. Maybe it's time to sit our young soldiers down and allow them to be the counselor for a change. We might be surprised that these bright young men and women have some very high standards of performance that we must strive to achieve.

Know your job like a pro. Whether you are an infantryman leading a patrol or an intel analyst working in the TOC, soldiers expect leaders to be competent in all aspects of the job for their skill level. They want to follow leaders who are confident of their own abilities. To be confident a leader must first be competent.

Stress the basics. Your soldiers expect you to demonstrate mastery of fundamental soldiering skills such as marksmanship, first aid, NBC, and land navigation.

Build on their strengths rather than dwell on their weaknesses. Soldiers want leaders to realize that there are certain tasks that some are better at than others. Key in on the skills and talents that they bring to the table. There are certain football players who only enter the game on 3<sup>rd</sup> and short. They are good for plowing the ball straight down the middle for a two-yard gain for the first down and then off to the sidelines they go. The coach wouldn't dare to ask them to run a reverse or a fly pattern. That is not where their strengths lie.

Be a good listener. Understand the difference between hearing and listening. Being a good listener isn't one who just waits to talk. Our young soldiers expect you to listen to their problems and concerns. Listen to them when they communicate their goals to you. You must listen with equal attention to your subordinates as you do your superiors. As a



leader you can help solve any problem for a soldier or a unit. However, you can only do so if you know about it. You won't know it if you don't listen.

Treat them with dignity and respect. You must show genuine concern and compassion for the soldiers that you lead. It is essential that leaders remain sensitive to family members and their needs. Remember, respect is a two-way street. When reprimanding your soldiers, explain to them that you are disappointed in their behavior, not in them as a human being. Remember, your soldiers are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. Give them the respect that you demand from them.

Set and enforce standards. As a leader, your soldiers expect you to know, and always enforce, established Army and Task Force standards. Perhaps the most fundamental standard that must be maintained is discipline.

Set the example. Your soldiers want and need you to be a role model. This is a heavy responsibility, but you have no choice. No aspect of leadership is more powerful. If you expect courage, competence, candor, commitment, and integrity from your soldiers, you must demonstrate those same attributes daily. Your soldiers will imitate your behavior. Believe me!

Be Relentless. They want you there at the finish line. They want you to be uncompromising to standards, unyielding to the execution of the mission, and unforgiving when someone abused them or failed to do their job in support of them.

These are just a few of their expectations. They are only marks on the wall. Can you measure up?

### Falcon Flier

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# Fresh coat of paint erases bad memories

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Scott Holdsworth  
358th MPAD**

There are opportunities everywhere to help the world and the Defense Logistics Agency, along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Logistics Task Force found another way.

The DLA and the 3<sup>rd</sup> LTF, who take care of the logistics of Task Force Falcon, visited a school in Mirash/Stari Miras. They visited the school to give it a fresh coat of paint and a fresh coat of smiles on the faces of the children there.

The school was adopted by the DLA about 18 months ago, said Navy Cmdr. Alan McCosh, commander of the DLA.

They have done many things to help the school in the last year and a half in physical things such as clothing, eyeglasses, shoes and a computer for the school.

They have also spent a lot of time with the children, McCosh said. They visit the school at least twice a month.

The DLA planned the project and invited the 3<sup>rd</sup> LTF to come along. A convoy, including a busload of service members from DLA and the 3<sup>rd</sup> LTF, took a short ride to the town of Mirash/Stari Miras. After arriving at the school, the



Spc. McKinney paints the inside of the window at a school in Mirash.

director of the school, Jusuf Bytyci, explained to the translator what help was needed.

The work started with taking all the drawings off the walls of the front entrance.

Because of the content of the drawing, which included fire fights, tanks, and troops, it was like cleaning up the memories that the children had from the last year.

While some cleaned up the walls, others mixed the paint.

They then split in three teams and started painting the inside of the school.

"The school will be freshly painted, disinfected and ready for the new school year," Bytyci said.

One of the reasons that McCosh said they wanted to paint the school was to make the learning experience better. With new paint, new equipment and a sense of worth the children can learn better, said McCosh.

The service members soon attracted many children from the neighborhood. They spent a lot of the time painting and cleaning, however they took some breaks to talk and to spend time with the children.

"We go to the school and see the kids and it helps us realize we have a lot to give, not only here, but back at home too," said Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Wallner, chief of the Balkans DLA.

"The soldiers came away really enjoying it," said McCosh.

"It was good to get out and do something different for a change," said Teixeira Powell of B Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> LTF. "The environment was different. It was good to get out and see the culture and how it is where the people and children are."

"When the children come back," Bytyci said, "they will be told that the help came from

American KFOR. I'm sure they will express their satisfaction for the American KFOR."

"If we are put into the situation to help people it's a good thing, no matter if we are in Kosovo or anywhere else," said Wallner. "We are here and this is our opportunity."

"We can show them that trust can be gained through peace," said McCosh.

The DLA was not finished when the painting of the school was done. They also have many other plans to help their adopted school, said McCosh.

They made arrangements for the school to get a new fence that will be put up by members of the community.

The school was also put on the list to receive a playground from Brown and Root.

"We are not only helping their learning experience, but we are helping them understand Americans. It helps us understand them too," McCosh said.

With time spent with the children and new friendships, the children will see what Americans are all about, said Wallner.

"With this kind of contact we build our friendship and hope that they [KFOR] continue to respect our people and our school, because we offer friendship and a good heart," Bytyci said.

## Over 116 homes searched near Vitina Municipality

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Maria Jaramillo  
358th MPAD**

The sun had not yet risen over the mountains when thirty soldiers piled out of a Chinook into an open field. They quietly crept up to the dark houses surrounding them. The only other moving objects were corn stalks swaying in the distance. Minutes later, after entering the scene, families were huddled in their yards and the search was on.

This cordon and search conducted in the Vitina municipality, Kosovo of over 116 buildings produced an assortment of illegal items hidden inside homes. The search also sent the message that Task Force Falcon is continuing its proactive approach to stopping illegal activities in Kosovo.

Everything from attics and basements to cars and barns were searched that day. The search ended with the detention of 17 individuals and the seizure of 30 assault rifles, one long barreled rifle, one pistol and more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

"We were looking for rifles, certain [extremist] paraphernalia, anything that would suggest that the people still belong to the [extremist] organization here," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mark A. Nordwall, the executive officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of 2-502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment.

The search involved the cooperation of several different units that day. The combined efforts of the 2-502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, the 21st Military Police Company, the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, the 2-17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and the 789<sup>th</sup> Explosive Ordnance Company completed the



Soldiers work with the homeowner to make sure that every possible hiding place is searched.

successful cordon and search.

"We were here to do a compliance check to make sure they weren't hiding anything," Nordwall said.

Each search involved different levels of safety concerns. With the inherent possibility of soldier casualties, a prescribed order of operation was followed. When the soldiers entered the homes, the head of the household would be the first to show areas to the soldiers.

Nordwall explained the procedure of having the civilian homeowner open doors of the home and car before the soldiers began searching. "If it is booby trapped and he knows it, he probably won't set it off while he is there or while he is opening it."

Haystacks, cars and barns as well as the homes were included in the search. An interpreter was used at the sites to provide good

**See Search on page 14**

# WORDSEARCH: Hops to it

H D R G L R O K V I R J N S M V D R Z U V P H E X E P S L I Z E  
K K E P I R T S D E R G U T X N E W X N U H M U J P P O V C Z D  
Y J H P T F A R D E N I U N E G R E L L I M I J B B T Z E F G E  
T D K R D X A D S T L P G N A C H R K T F R O C Z F P B E V S I  
S G K E A H O I V U P B E L W K S C J F L V B S O W T H E G H X  
Q U N L N G E Z J O W N N S C O I N D R Z P T F I A M L T R B I  
Q E A I T W V B G T N O G S U K R W V L J X J X B G N F A U V U  
I K E P D B P A B S T B L U E R I B B O N C I Z O B L P P Y U Q  
R W R U L D Q Y H S V K U Y Z O S Y E K C I M F R X S D D E H R  
Y X B J H Y O S O S R R S S R B N U C F M L M P D U A V D Q Z P  
Q O E S Y H A B U E V T V M C V A G K D F T D M Y S X V Y W G V  
T C D Z I A S T G N O I N V M H I H S C U E S T A D N V S V P P  
A Q A C G M Q A A N O J T H G I L S R O O C L Y K B O P D X A K  
Z Q C A A M L Z E I R N O Q G R L I J M B A K B B T D S B D A Y  
I M H D Z S E L R U O E O F Q X I L G J N T V G W M W R H J R W  
U O A D R K I F D G F I G C O U K G E H P E K K N C D V P A D Q  
Q L R E O G A E S H L N I A I N E N W R T X S Q H T A L W C W E  
E D T G H C A G E N E S E E L A G E R O H Y O J B Y B M D S Z X  
T S X T O W V J D O Y P H D H B R D N U G I Y A N M G Y G A S N  
O T E D E E K U A W L I M D L O O L N D I B G I H F O T K V O W  
D Y A R G V T R S U Z D M A L O E O R Z L O C H O C F I U K C N  
W L N B A R N A A M S T E L L I G H T N D O T D L D Y Y N N G D  
O E O L A U P R F S G S I A G M U N A T U R A L L I T E U I K U  
B B R W R L B Z I C M N T L H N J U O I B D N K E J F L Q I X I  
C A O K D N W L R J G G C S H E P U R S O Q Y S W P K E Y W V N  
E S C T E H F Z I R C A J G T C J D H F L H U V H W A F G M V Z  
Q S L W N A J G O T R E H D B O S U T B E O N R I O R A L N A J  
H A O R N E U C U L Y O F A Y S O W T T H H M C R J R X J V E V  
D L L D L J K S B N C G Y O D S C P U E C K S Q Q W D T G J Z D  
N E M V P T H E I X Z K R V O Y O Z C X I O U M C H W J S F V T  
Q P T R L P R S N C M Q N E Z G O I P I M R G X L K E G N C I H  
U D P Z B G E A I I P X W W B U D X D G P R K W N T T M E L B T  
Z B C U E P C D E X E O S C N U V S P P G X W O F Q B B T L Y W  
W Y Q Y E S E W A O B H L X B G B I R Y D Y X O U M P M I L J L  
D W M S S S J C X Y C Y U I C R J O V M C A R M V A H Z P H B F  
M O L H I B Z V Q P E Z Z I D Z V M S J O V E T L M T R W W S S  
L G X Q R J Q N A P L Z E S L Z I A L O M G T W D W O S Y P H C  
O W Y P B Z W F M A C S L Y F Y O R C I I L O V H Q B M E T N T  
B Y D A I Y Z G O Y M Q A S U Y R J I F I E S A J A V W I V N U  
H F D P M W T F W P F Z K P L X Y B D Z L P R E V A Y Y G Q Z Z

## Word Key:

- AMSTELLITGHT  
ASTIKA  
BASSALE  
BECKS  
BODDINGTONS  
BOZICNO  
BUDICE  
BUDLIGHT  
BUDWEISER  
BUSCHLIGHT  
CAFRI  
CARLBERG  
CHERNIGIVSKIPIVO  
COORS  
COORSLIGHT  
CORONAEXTRA  
CUTTHROAT  
DOMMELSCH  
DOSEQUIS  
FOSTERSLAGER  
GENESEELAGER  
GEORGEKILLIANSIRISHRED  
GUBERNATOR  
GUINNESSSTOUT  
HAMMS  
HEINEKEN  
HENRYWEINHARD  
HERTOGJAN  
HOEGAARDEN  
HOUGAERDSEDAS  
HPFENKONIG  
ICEHOUSE  
JULIUS  
JUPILER  
KEYSTONELIGHT  
LABATTBLUE  
LEFFEBROWN  
LOWENBRAU  
MICHELOB  
MICKEYS  
MILLERGENUINEDRAFT  
MILLERHIGHLIFE  
MOLSONGOLDEN  
NATURALITE
- OBLAGER  
OLDENGLISH  
OLDMILWAUKEE  
OLDSTYLE  
PABSTBLUERIBBON  
REDDOG  
REDSTRIPE  
ROLLINGROCK  
SAFIR  
SCHLITZ  
STROHS  
TECATE  
TEQUIZA

## Falcon's force

### Why is women's equality important?



Sgt. Raymond Walikowski  
signal support  
systems specialist  
1-320th Field  
Artillery, Vitina

"Women's equality is important because women are important. They can pull their own weight."



Sgt. Keri Huhtanen  
civil affairs sgt.  
490th Civil Affairs  
Battalion,  
Bondsteel

"Everyone needs to be treated equal and shown no preference for pay and promotion or even on boards just because of their sex."



1st Sgt. Phillip Manville, 1-41st  
Field Artillery  
Monteith

"Women have worked very hard to get to where they are today, and we should respect their capabilities not only as soldiers, but also in everyday life."



Spc. Victor Tenorio  
cannonier 1-320th  
Field Artillery,  
Vitina

"Being a female doesn't mean that she can't do a man's job just because she's a female. She can probably do a better job than a man."



Pfc. Glenita White  
personnel services  
specialist, 101st  
Soldier Support  
Battalion, Monteith

"Women's equality day is important because it celebrates the struggles that women overcame over the years to be equal."



Sgt. Edgar Rosa  
section leader  
2-502nd Infantry  
Regiment, Klokot

"I think women deserve the same amount of respect as men do. I don't think there is any difference between them, except for the physical differences."



# Women's Equality Day celebrated by TFF

**Story and photo by  
Sgt. Annie Burrows  
358th MPAD**

The ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment on August 26, 1920 gave women in the United States the right to vote. Task Force Falcon soldiers celebrated Women's Equality Day, which is a Department of Defense special observance to honor the achievements of women.

"We celebrate Women's Equality Day to recognize and celebrate the tremendous positive change brought on by the Women's Movement," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Teddy R. Compton, Task Force Falcon Equal Opportunity Advisor. "Due to the countless millions of women who planned, organized, lectured, wrote, petitioned, lobbied, paraded, and broke new ground in every field imaginable, our world is irrevocably changed."

One career field in which women have made significant achievements is that of a servicemember in the U.S. military. Although women have historically been an integral part of the military, they were only officially recognized for their roles in the medical field until World War II. Women now serve in a variety of aspects of the US fighting force.

During the Revolutionary war there were accounts of women fighting, but they served primarily in supporting roles, such as providing medical care. In 1775, the Second Continental Congress set up a plan for Army medical care,

authorizing one nurse for every ten patients, and one matron to act as supervisor, for every 100 patients according to "American Women and the Military," at [www.gendergap.com](http://www.gendergap.com).

Although there was a plan for the medical care of American troops, an official military Nurse Corps was not established until much later.

"We didn't have a professional military Nursing Corps, (the start of women in the Army), until the Spanish American War in 1898. A nurse corps auxiliary was created in 1901," said Col. Judith a Lockett, a professor in the U.S. Militray Acedemy History Dept., in a 1997 Army News article "A Look at the History of Women in the Army" by Cpl. Jim Fox.

Many women served as nurses during the Civil War as well, and it was during this time that the Army appointed its first female surgeons. There were three known female contract surgeons employed by the Union Army.

One of these surgeons, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker who was captured and held as a prisoner of war, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her actions during battle, as well as caring for her fellow prisoners according to "American Women and the Military" at [www.gendergap.com](http://www.gendergap.com).

There are also several accounts of women disguising themselves as men in order to fight in the Confederate and Union Armies, although it is unknown how widespread this practice was. During World War I, women



Task Force Falcon joins together for a fun-run to celebrate Women's Equailty Day at Camp Bondsteel.

served as Army and Navy nurses. But it was World War II that finally secured a place for women in the U.S. military. They were allowed to serve in non-combatant roles in the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

On May 15, 1942, a bill introduced by Representative Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, became law. The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) established a women's corps in the U.S. Army, with salary and benefits. Over 150,000 women joined.

Later, in 1943, the "auxiliary" was dropped and they became the WACs. Although originally intended to be part of the Army only during the war, the WACs were kept on because of extensions

until it became a permanent part of the military in 1948. The WACs were to make up only two percent of the military, according to "Women's Army Corps (WAC)" at [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com).

"In 1973 U.S. involvement in Vietnam was ending and the military became an all-volunteer force. This caused the two percent ceiling, (technically eliminated, but still used), for women in the WAC to be exceeded," said Fox, in his 1997 Army News Article. "A doubling of the number of basic training units for women was needed."

In 1978 Congress decided that a seperate corps was no longer needed, and women were inegrated into the Armed Forces.

## KFOR experiments crossloading international vehicles

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Maria Jaramillo  
358th MPAD**

A French tank lumbered past a crowd of Russian soldiers who were studying a British transporter. The tank's tracks, clanging loudly, kept it moving, but the sound was lost amid the twenty other tanks whose tracks deafened the air as they moved to their next destination:



An Italian armored personnel carrier moves onto a Swedish transporter as directed by the ground guide. This was part of the International Operations Crossloading exercise.

a foreign transporter that waited to load the machine, or test the possibility thereof.

Fourteen nations gathered at Camp Bondsteel in August for an International Operations Cross-load exercise. The exercise is conducted every six months in order to help future NATO operations understand the transport capabilities of all the other nations.

"It is important to know that if a British tank breaks down in the Russian sector, that everybody knows what kind of transport the Russian sector can provide," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michael D. Hofmeister, a G-4 material readiness officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Falcon. "This will allow us to already have the information of what will work and what won't."

There was a wide assortment of vehicles that collected in the dirt parking lot at 10:00 that morning. Thirty different light and heavy equipment transporters lined up in the middle of the lot before starting the exercise.

"We segregated heavy and light transports first and the different pieces of equipment were simply rotated through the different transports one at a time so that it wasn't a mass chaotic mess," Hofmeister said.

After a safety brief and exercise summary, the drivers loaded up into their vehicles. Everything from huge British tanks to small

armored Italian vehicles began rotating through the line transporters. Ground guides directed the vehicles forward onto the transporter. When the vehicle was fit safely onto the transporter, another set of ground guides helped the vehicle steer back onto the parking lot.

The fit onto the transporter was not always perfect, and sometimes the vehicle couldn't even make it up the ramp. Both the failure and success to load the vehicles was the purpose of the exercise.

"Some of the limitations that we found on the armored personnel carriers were that the width of the tires and the width of the ramps don't match," Hofmeister said.

A mixture of different languages played a colorful part in planning the exercise. At each transport, chances were that the ground guides spoke a different language than the vehicle driver. So universal hand signals for stop, go and turn were used between the drivers and the guides.

"The language barrier was a bit of a challenge at times, but to bring everybody together like this and having them work together was the main focus of this exercise," Hofmeister said. The exercise was a valuable lesson for the NATO troops in Kosovo, and a good refresher for future NATO operations.



# The 307th Medical Group brings quality care to Kosovo

**Story and photo by  
Sgt. 1st Class Brian  
Kappmeyer  
358th MPAD**

With international cooperation playing a major role in maintaining peace in Kosovo, Army Reserve medical administrators are lending their expertise in helping to provide medical care for service members from several nations.

As the first Army Reserve unit to take command of Task Force Med Falcon (TFMF) responsibilities, soldiers with the 307<sup>th</sup> Medical Group have witnessed significant changes during their few months at Camp Bondsteel.

"It is an honor that our success in the Army Reserve has allowed us to step forward and take on this very important mission," said Col. Dean Sienko, commander of TFMF and the 307<sup>th</sup> Medical Group.

Along with members of the Army Reserve's 399<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital and United Kingdom health authorities, 307<sup>th</sup> members have spearheaded the effort to implement Kosovo's first Multinational Integrated Medical Unit.

The MIMU combines the strengths of American and British medical personnel to form a combined level III hospital.

As a level III facility, the staff of 25 British and 175 Americans can care for more patients and compliment each other's talents and capabilities.

With the increase in the hospital's capabilities, came the responsibility to provide coverage

for more people in the British controlled Multinational Brigade Central region in addition to the American sector of Multinational Brigade East. Personnel from several other countries are also members of the Central and East regions and can receive treatment at Camp Bondsteel.

As the requirements for health care increased, so did the need for a more modern facility. The completion of a new 32-bed hospital is expected in early September at Camp Bondsteel.

"The challenge of operating in a multinational environment is bringing disparately different elements together, aligning them on the same page with the same goals," said Sienko, who also served as a medical doctor during the Gulf War. "Working with all of

the other countries is fascinating and enhances one's understanding of how the U.S. Army fits into this kind of peacekeeping operation."

In his civilian career, Sienko is the medical director of the Ingham County Health Department in Lansing, Mich.

As the natural debate in the United States continues about the necessity for U.S. forces taking part in peacekeeping missions around the world, the beliefs of at least one soldier here in Kosovo has changed since his arrival.

Dublin, Ohio, resident Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Pfeifer, a financial planner for MET Life, wasn't sold initially on the need for U.S. troops in the Balkans. However, after witnessing the good that the Kosovo Forces are accomplishing, he has changed his

mind.

"It is pretty clear we are making a difference in the lives of the people in Kosovo and being here and seeing the reality made me change my mind for the need of U.S. troops here," Pfeifer said.

Pfeifer is quick to point out that almost all of the U.S. medical personnel he is working with are volunteers. In his eyes, that makes a big difference because the soldiers want to be here and that enhances the performance of everyone.

"This is the most professional organization I have been associated with," said Pfeifer proudly.

Assistant Operations Officer Capt. Joe Marsiglia, from Gaylord, Mich., has experienced the rewards of getting to know soldiers from other nations as well as his American colleagues with the 307<sup>th</sup> Medical Group. As a former member of the 334<sup>th</sup> Medical Group in Grand Rapids, Mich., he volunteered to join the 307<sup>th</sup> for the deployment and had never met the soldiers he'd be working with in Kosovo.

"Coming together with people I've never worked with and bringing everything together to work as a team is challenging," said Marsiglia, who is a police officer in Gaylord.

Marsiglia, who spent time in Germany supporting Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia a few years ago, volunteered to deploy with the 307<sup>th</sup> for the education that participating in Operation Joint Guardian could offer.

"Coming to Kosovo gave me the opportunity to use all of the training I've received over the years," he said. "This is the best education you can receive."



Task Force Medical Falcon personnel Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Pfeifer, 307<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Donald Doyle, 399<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, meet in front of the Camp Bondsteel hospital to discuss guard duty arrangements for their soldiers.

## School Starts Sept. 3

Task Force Falcon wants to remind everybody to slow down on the roads and be aware of the local children going to school.



Photo by Spc. Maria Jaramillo



Photo by Cpt. Michael Huth



Photo by Spc. Maria Jaramillo



# Preventative medicine hits the air waves

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Marshall Thompson  
358th MPAD**

The city of Kacanik, Kosovo doesn't have any skyscrapers, but it does have an eight-story apartment building at the top of which is perched Radio Kacanik.

On Aug. 15, Col. Dean Sienko, the commander of Task Force Med Falcon from the 307th Medical Group, climbed each and every stair to deliver a message to the people of Kosovo via the radio waves.

The radio transmissions are part of KFOR Hour on local Kosovo radio stations. The KFOR Hour is meant to inform the public on a variety of different subjects.

"We sponsor local radio shows to put out information," said Sgt. Randy Hughes, a broadcast journalist with the 9th Psychological Operations Battalion. "We ensure that the information is getting out there. We do over 40

shows a month to include two live shows."

Hughes said that the live shows, like Sienko's interview that day, are a "one shot, one kill" situation.

Despite the pressure of a live show, Sienko came through and spoke on a variety of topics that he felt were necessary to improve the lives of the people of Kosovo.

"We talked about something that they don't usually get to hear about, which is preventive medicine," said Sienko. "I would like to see Kosovo improve its ability to prevent people from getting sick."

Sienko stressed that there was a lot of respect and mutual cooperation between the American doctors and the medical professionals in Kosovo.

"The doctors are working very hard in Kosovo. We are trying to work along side them as professional colleagues. We know they don't have the resources and equipment that we have back in the States, but we believe they are doing the best they can with the resources they have," Sienko said.

Sienko said there are still some very simple things that people can do in Kosovo that don't require complicated medical science or well-developed health care infrastructures. He spoke about the ills of smoking, accident prevention, and dental care.

"It's very hard for us because we sent out our dentists and they had to pull the teeth of young children. We saw a family with four people and we had to pull 17 teeth. We think we could do better here with good dental care," Sienko said.

Sienko also answered questions about women's, men's, and children's health as well as the environment.

"We all, as humans on this planet, must take care of the air and the water, and we must protect those sources from contamination," said Sienko. "As human beings, we can't live without clean water."

For listeners in Kosovo, this information was very much worth tuning in for.

"The issues we discussed today were very important," said Izair Koraqi, a broadcast journalist with Radio Kacanik. "It was a very interesting show and probably a lot of people were very interested to listen to it."

Aside from learning important things like time and place of the next medical civic action program, Hughes said that listeners are even learning English from the programs. He said when listeners call in and want to know what life is like in America, it can become a wonderful cultural exchange.

"The KFOR show is one of the most listened to at Kacanik Radio," Koraqi said. "Every time we have a different KFOR representative so people are always interested to know what they will say. Since radio and the media play a very important role here, it's important that KFOR has taken an active role in it."

After the radio show was finished, Sienko and the Task Force Falcon soldiers with him descended all the stairs and headed back to Camp Bondsteel.

"I think the majority of the people here want to make this a better place. Under the proper leadership, I think they will make this a civil society. It will take a large investment of time and energy," said Sienko. "But we all come here and incrementally add toward that goal."



Col. Dean Sienko, commander of Task Force Med Falcon from the 307th Medical Group, talks live on Radio Kacanik with the help of an interpreter.

## TFF engineers put an end to rocky roads in Kosovo

**Story by  
Spc. Maria Jaramillo  
358th MPAD**

Steam rose off the newly paved road. The sharp smell of hot asphalt and the sticky black tar on the machinery was all that was left of the asphalt team's work past noon each day. A three-week paving project in Prizren, Kosovo was the last big job for the Tennessee National Guardsmen who are soon to be homeward-bound.

A bypass road that left the main route and led straight up to the German base camp, Prizren Airfield, was built just outside the city of Prizren.

This new direct road creates a path for heavy tracked vehicles and other KFOR traffic without having to drive through the city traffic.

This project was a multinational effort. German sector pro-



The 155th Engineer Platoon paves a new bypass into the German base camp, Prizren Airfield.

vided the funding for the asphalt. KFOR Main Headquarters liaised between Task Force Falcon, German Command and the 155th Engineer Platoon.

The 3.8-kilometer stretch of road was paved with 9,000 tons of asphalt that was produced early

each morning in Pristina, two hours away. The asphalt was delivered at 250 degrees Fahrenheit hot and ready to be poured. The engineers began working at 5:00 each morning to avoid the heat of the day along with the hot asphalt.

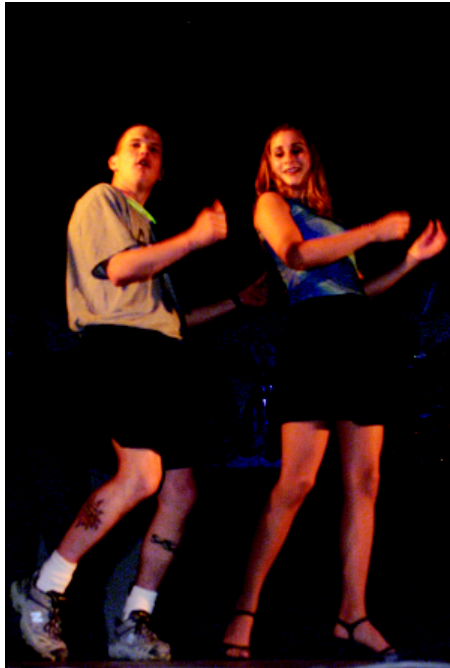
"Our biggest challenge is the heat because we have full battle-rattle on and we are working with the asphalt at 125 plus degrees," said 1st Lt. James "Sweet Tony" Lacy, detachment commander, 155th Engineer Platoon.

The German military provided more than just money for the project. While the soldiers worked on the road, they stayed out at the base camp and everything from food, housing and entertainment was provided.

The Prizren job was the second-biggest project for the platoon since arriving in Kosovo, but it was their last before heading back home to Tennessee.

Cpl. Shawn L. Woodward, a deuce and a half driver with the 155th Engineer Platoon, summed up the difference made since their arrival, "I believe we have helped improve the quality of life here. With the roads we have made, it's a better environment and less hazardous for everybody around."





# Liquid Blue gives rock solid performance

**Story and photos by  
Spc. Marshall Thompson  
358th MPAD**

For the average male soldier in Kosovo, it doesn't get much better than good rock and roll and beautiful women. Perhaps this is why many soldiers who attended the Liquid Blue concert at Camp Bondsteel said it was the best band they had seen.

"It's the best show yet," said Sgt. Michael Jarrell, a postal sergeant with the 554<sup>th</sup> Postal Unit. "[Liquid Blue] got more response than anybody."

The key to the success of Liquid Blue came in a three-part combination guaranteed to rock any crowd. Liquid Blue first and foremost is an excellent band that performs a panoramic assortment of the finest songs. If the music wasn't enough by itself, the Blue Girls, providing vocals and dancing, were stunning. On top of all that, the audience participation was unprecedented.

"I have to admit how multitallented they were," said Pfc. Ryan Smith, a telecommunications computer operator/maintainer, with G-6 from Headquarters and

Headquarters Company of Task Force Falcon. "They played instruments, they sang, and the women were beautiful."

Liquid Blue has to be multitallented to be able to play all sorts of pop music from rock and roll classics by Lynard Skynard, to selections from Destiny's Child, Madonna, and Three Doors Down.

"They played a lot of stuff that everybody knows. Everybody was really familiar with the music," Jarrell said.

To be able to play music that everybody knows, Liquid Blue has mastered over 600 songs. A feat that Liquid Blue front man Scott Stephens said requires excellent musicians.

"The audience here is really diverse. We wanted to do something for everybody," said Stephens.

Liquid Blue did have something for everybody, and that was a chance to participate.

"I think they were really motivated and they kept the crowd motivated with their performance," said Sgt. David Finkelstein, an information systems operator/analyst with B Company of the 501<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion. "They got themselves involved with the crowd."

Sgt. Josh Colburn, an aviation power plant repair specialist with A Company of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), was invited up to sing "I'm Proud to Be An American" with Liquid Blue. He counterbalanced his tone-deafness with his sheer enthusiasm –dancing with the Blue Girls and jumping around with a beach ball given by Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR). If soldiers have learned anything from the past major MWR events like the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders and the Redskinettes, it's that it's good to be having your birthday that day. Liquid Blue was no exception.

Sgt. Joseph LeBron, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the G-3 drivers pool for HHC of TFF, was invited to come up on stage and receive his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday spankings from the Blue Girls.

"They really knew how to milk a crowd," said Smith whose favorite part of the show was when Liquid Blue started stage diving. "I think it was the most interactive band ever here. It's good to see that stuff like this is being done for soldiers."

Stephens said that Liquid Blue was interested in doing Armed Forces Entertainment

(AFE) shows because the whole band feels that everybody should serve their country in one aspect or another.

"We play a lot and have a lot of fun, but we also like to give a lot back. This is an opportunity and an honor," Stephens said.

Stephens said that this tour was an eye-opener for the band because they were able to see how people enjoyed their shows without the effects of alcohol.

"They party just as hard as people that are drinking. When they look you right in the eye and tell you how much they liked the show, it's more sincere," Stephens said.

Liquid Blue has already toured the Middle East and Africa and is currently doing a European tour with AFE. After this, they plan to go to the Caribbean.

"We want to go to every base that we possibly can," Stephens said.

The show was an amazing boost to morale for the soldiers of Task Force Falcon.

"I think it gives people something to look forward to, and gets them out of the routine. I wish they would come back and give [the next rotation] a taste of their talent," Finkelstein said.





*upper far left:* Sgt. Josh Colburn, an aviation power plant repair specialist with A Company 8-101st Airborne Infantry Division (Air Assault), dances on stage with Mandy Gasparich from Liquid Blue.

*upper left:* Liquid Blue gets the crowd's response during their rendition of the hit by glam-rock legend Gary Glitter, "The Hey Song."

*left:* Liquid Blue lights up the stage with a variety of songs and dancing.

*upper center:* Michael Vangerov, guitar/vocals, delivers a stunning solo while Gasparich waves to an adoring fan.

*upper right:* Vangerov amazes the crowd by throwing the guitar behind his head for a killer solo. Behind him Dana Damian dances.

*above:* Nikki Greasland, lead vocalist/keyboardist for Liquid Blue dances in between Gasparich and Damian.

*right:* Gasparich holds her arms open wide toward the crowd in Camp Bondsteel under the American Flag. Liquid Blue was said by many to have been the best show they've ever seen in Kosovo.





# Soldiers help youth in Kosovo have a place to be kids

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Engels Tejeda  
358th MPAD**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Group (CAG), a Marine unit attached to the 3-7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, opened the first of fourteen playgrounds scheduled for completion by mid-September throughout the 3-7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment's sector.

It was a joyous morning. Children of all ages smiled endlessly and chatted about their new diversion. At a glance, you could hardly tell that the celebration was taking place in a region battling the remnants of war. It was the opening of a playground behind a primary school in Velekince/Valeknice, Kosovo.

"We are not going to let the older kids take it over," said a nine-year old boy in regards to the playground. "KFOR is very good."

Surrounded by a crowd of youngsters, Lt. Col. Gregory Kammerer, commander of the 3-7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, described the opening event as a very important day for the future of the region.

"This is a very good day for your town. And we, from KFOR, are all very glad to be a part of this very happy day in Velekince," said Kammerer. "The best thing is, we are doing something good for the children of the town. Children, as you know, are our future, and the children [here] are the future of Kosovo."

The playground was subsidized by KFOR, as a sort of reward for good behavior in the town.

"Since the people of your town have worked so hard to make the school a better place for the children, we thought from KFOR the least we could do is to help you with a playground to make it more fun for the kids," Kammerer said.

The playgrounds are part of a program through which the civil affairs Marines hope to involve the community in its own develop-



Sgt. Michael D. Swift (left) and Sgt. Gregory Palmertree, both civil affairs specialists with the 4th Civil Affairs Group, play with local children during the opening of a playground at Velekince.

ment.

"Through some of these projects we are getting the communities involved in preparing some of the sites or actually doing the work. We are hopping we can get some community pride," said Maj. Gregory Murray, officer in charge of the 4<sup>th</sup> CAG.

"If they build it, chances are they'll take care of it," said Gunnery Sgt. Randall R. McNeely, team chief with 4<sup>th</sup> CAG.

The Marines with the civil affairs group keep busy looking for opportunities to contribute to the communities they support. Organizing projects like patching roads, building playgrounds, fixing walls and bathrooms in schools and providing supplies for school children represent some of the Marines' efforts to improve the lives of the people they are asked to help.

The civil affairs specialists usually try to assist towns that have been cooperative with KFOR or have shown a strong interest in

moving forward.

The 4<sup>th</sup> CAG receives the requests and submits a formal report to the Task Force Falcon's Humanitarian Assistance Board.

The board examines the request and designates the proper funds provided by the United States government for the individual projects. So far, the 4<sup>th</sup> CAG has received approval for about \$350,000 in different projects.

McNeely said that sometimes the board is unable to designate funds to a given project. In such situations, the 4<sup>th</sup> CAG works with non-governmental organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development and the Red Cross to fund the projects.

The Marines said there were many advantages to projects like the building of the playgrounds.

"It helps to keep children out of the streets. Now they are all hanging out at playgrounds instead of in the roads where we are driving back and forth, so it's kind of a safety thing," McNeely said.

Kammerer said his task force was "especially honored to have these United States Marines to help us, and it was the personal efforts of these fine Marines that helped to get the playground put together." He said that such projects were very significant because many of the servicemembers have kids of their own, so it is easy to relate.

"A bunch of us here have children, just like the children of Kosovo, and it makes us feel good that we can help children," Kammerer said.

"Working with the kids strikes right to the heart," said Murray, father of two-year-old Lauren, and four-year-old Abie.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Ellicott, non-commissioned officer in charge with the 4<sup>th</sup> CAG, said the Marines are working about 12-14 hours per day. But he says it is all worth it and it is a minor challenge, since most of the members of the unit volunteered to serve in Kosovo for six months.

## TFF recognizes the soldier and NCO of the quarter

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Marshall Thompson  
358th MPAD**

In the end, there can be only one. That's the way it had to be for the soldier and NCO of the quarter of Task Force Falcon. There were many qualified applicants, but in the end there was only one.

When the dust settled, there stood only Sgt. Steven G. Colombe, a team leader in the 311<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, as NCO of the quarter and Spc. Karen M. Sampayo, a signal intelligence analyst also from the 311<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, as soldier of the quarter.

The ceremony was held in the north town dining facility V.I.P. room on Aug. 16. Task Force Falcon Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, who organized the whole event, said that he was glad to be able to honor these soldiers.

"The purpose is to reward excellent performance and showcase our fine soldiers," Hill said.

The two soldiers sat with the two runner-ups, as well as Hill and Brig. Gen. Bill David, com-

mander of Multinational Brigade East, for lunch.

On the adjacent table were seated all the Task Force Falcon Command Sergeants Major. Hill said that he set it up that way on purpose so that everybody there could see how intimidating it was to go in front of the board.

"I got scared just eating lunch," David said with a laugh.

After lunch was done, they brought out dessert, but only for Sampayo and Colombe.

Hill had prepared a great treat for the soldiers. They were first presented with Army Commendation Medals. Then Brown and root presented them with plaques expressing their appreciation for the work done. Then AAFES presented them both with a complete pair of the new physical training uniform.

If that wasn't enough, every command sergeant major in Task Force Falcon gave a coin to Sampayo and Colombe. When all was said and done, they both had a stack of coins. Sampayo said that she and her husband were competing to see who could get the most coins, but now it looked like he would no longer be any competi-

tion.

Sampayo and Colombe then said a few words. They both thanked their fellow soldiers and the leaders that encouraged them to go before the board.

Sampayo, from West Palm Beach, Fl., has a Bachelors of Arts in Linguistics from the University of Florida. She has studied Arabic at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) and been to Air Assault School. She hopes to become a sergeant and get airborne qualified before eventually earning a degree in nursing.

Colombe, from Mobile, Al., has attended the Arabic Basic Course at the DLI; the Communications, Electronic Warfare, and Intercept Operators Course; Air Assault School; Combat Communication; and the Personal Leadership Development Course. He hopes to finish his degree in English and teach at either a college or a high school level after the Army.

Hill said that he was proud of these two soldiers and he wanted everyone to know that they came from and were representative of every soldier in Task Force Falcon.



Spc. Karen M. Sampayo, soldier of the quarter for TFF from the 311th Military Intelligence Battalion, looks over all her new coins.



# TFF soldiers show courage at checkpoint

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Engels Tejeda  
358th MPAD**

Staff Sgt. Terrance Scarborough and his squad left Zegra Firebase to conduct a tactical checkpoint along Route Amber at about 8:30 p.m. July 9. The squad's mission was to interdict National Liberation Army (NLA) activity in their sector.

Scarborough, a motor vehicle operator, and five soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-7th Infantry Regiment, set up their checkpoint in a location on the north end of Surlane, Kosovo. The squad was supporting a Bright Skies mission and it was their fifth night as part of the operation.

At about 10:50 p.m., Spc. James Smith and Spc. Aaron Waden, both petroleum supply specialists, spotted a vehicle "creeping suspiciously" down the road.

The vehicle was headed north and there were four people in it — a detail Smith was able to identify because he was using his night vision goggles. Smith and Waden reported the vehicle to Scarborough, whose location was closer to the nearing vehicle.

Scarborough said that he ordered his team to stop the vehicle. As it approached the traffic control point, the soldiers signaled the civilians to stop.

The vehicle slowed down near Scarborough's HMMWV, but when the soldiers approached the car, the driver "stepped on the gas and fled away."

Scarborough immediately called the soldiers and told them



Staff Sgt. Terrence Scarborough (center), a motor vehicle operator with HHC 3-7th Infantry Regiment, inspects a squad at Camp Monteith. Scarborough and his team demonstrated a sense of duty and personal courage while operating a check point July 9th.

to block the fleeing car. Smith and Waden barely missed the vehicle, but eventually passed it. Meanwhile Scarborough and his driver, Spc. David Lewis, supply specialist with HHC 3-7th Infantry Regiment, followed the car, and noticed that as Smith passed them, the subjects were throwing weapons out of their vehicle.

"When they were throwing the weapons out of the window, it became a really dangerous situation," said Pfc. Joseph Sharpless, petroleum supply specialist with HHC of 3-7th Infantry Regiment. "I was a little scared, but I knew that it was my job and that the

people in the car were a danger to the locals."

They identified the location along the side of the road where the weapons were thrown out of the car and reported that location to their headquarters.

Eventually, Smith was able to block the vehicle ensuring that his fellow soldiers and the occupants in the fleeing car were in no danger of a road accident.

Within seconds, Pvt. Bernard Scott, Sharpless, Waden, and Scarborough surrounded the suspects, forcing the four men to get out of the car.

Scott said that as he ap-

proached the vehicle he had several things in mind, but he said that the one he was concerned with the most was safety.

"I wanted to make sure that [the occupants] did not have any more weapons," said Scott. "I just wanted to make sure that my guys and I could return safely."

The team reported to headquarters and asked for support. The four men were detained and transferred to Camp Bondsteel.

Two were identified as NLA members who had just crossed the border and the other two men had recently been released from the Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility.

Scarborough said his squad was motivated by the infantry type mission because it was "exciting." He said that a lesson learned from the mission is that any soldier on duty can be required to face such adversity at any time, and therefore, every soldier should be ready.

The courage and sense of duty of the soldiers was recognized by their chain of command. They were praised in front of their company as they were awarded the Army Achievement Medal and received phone cards as a show of appreciation.

Scarborough's squad members said that they have no doubt that anyone in their unit would react in the same manner under those circumstances.

Sharpless said that everyone in the team is proud to have completed the mission safely and efficiently.

"We are all glad that we can return to our families. I just wanted to make sure that I can come home to my mom Gloria and my wife Jacinta," Sharpless said.

## Marines and soldiers join forces for a better Kosovo

**Story by  
1st Lt. Dan McSweeney  
PAO 24th MEU (SOC)**

Elements of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) began arriving at Camp Bondsteel on Aug. 22 for a month-long deployment rehearsal in the Multi-national Brigade East sector of Kosovo.

In all, over 700 Marines from the MEU, home-based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., will support Task Force Falcon's operations by participating in Operation Rapid Cheetah. The deployment rehearsal will focus on practicing the use of KFOR's strategic reserve force.

"This is a great opportunity for our Marines to get some real-world, multinational experience," said Col. Richard Mills, commanding officer of the unit. "We're just past the midway point in a six-month Mediterranean deployment aboard three ships. To join MNB (East) at the tail end of our float is a great way to wrap-up our time at the 'tip of the spear'."

The 24th MEU (SOC) is one of seven Marine Air Ground Task Forces regularly forward deployed around the world. The unit is

**"I think everyone in our battalion is looking forward to working with the Marines."**

-1st. Lt. Elizabeth Coupel  
2-101st Military Police Company

completely self-contained, consisting of a reinforced infantry battalion, a composite helicopter squadron, a full-service logistics and combat service support group, and a command element. Joined with a Naval Amphibious Ready Group, the MEU is capable of conducting operations virtually anywhere.

In addition to providing a forward U.S. presence in various regions, deployed MEUs participate in scheduled multinational military exercises and are prepared to respond to a wide variety of crises and contingencies, from humanitarian assistance missions to embassy evacuations and direct intervention operations.

"Everyone at Task Force Falcon has been very helpful to us," said Sgt. Maj. Charles Tonn, the MEU's senior enlisted Marine. "As we move forward and begin conducting patrols

and other show-of-force operations, we'll be working closely with MNB (East) personnel to maximize our impact."

While other MEUs have seen action in Kosovo in the past, (the 24th MEU worked with Task Force Falcon last year) this is the first time many soldiers and Marines have ever worked together.

"I think everyone in our battalion is looking forward to working with the Marines," said 1st Lt. Elizabeth Coupel, a platoon leader with 2-101st Military Police Company (Air Assault). "It's very rare for us to work with Marines at Fort Campbell, our home base. I'm sure our young soldiers are looking forward to sharing knowledge with their counterparts from the MEU."

Many Marines echoed the same sentiment.

"It's a good experience," said Sgt. Jack Cook, an operations clerk with the MEU's command element. "It's been said that Marines fight battles and the Army fights wars. This deployment will provide members of each service with the opportunity to see that first hand."

Follow the Marines of the 24th MEU (SOC) at [www.usmc.mil/24meu](http://www.usmc.mil/24meu).



# Combat Lifesavers control soldier stress

**Story by  
Sgt. 1st. Class Les Bishop  
Combat Stress Control**

In World War II, the United States Army lost more soldier duty days, and many soldiers were needlessly killed because of failure by soldiers and their leaders to recognize and manage combat stress. An overtired fire control officer or combat pilot is more likely to create "friendly fire" casualties than his well-rested counterpart.

Everyone's mission is important the success of Task Force Falcon today. Can it be done "in your sleep?" or after being overly worried about problems back home.

The role of the Combat Lifesaver (CLS) has always included the identification and management of combat and operational stress casualties.

Here in Kosovo, additional emphasis on combat stress control

has been made due to recent critical events in Kosovo (e.g., mine strikes, suicide attempts, and overall increase in missions) The CLS is now being tasked specifically to better identify stress and stress reactions in soldiers and their units. These skills include quickly noticing stressors, offering simple solutions if possible, and when to notify the chaplain and the chain of command to possible problems that may be affecting their soldiers.

To assist in the maintenance of this vital CLS life saving skill, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Medical Detachment (CSC) offers a CLS refresher training at Peacekeepers Chapel on Camp Bondsteel every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 1400-1430. (Camp Monteith based CLS are directed to the CSC team at Stryker Hall, every Thursday at 1700-1745.)

The goal of this refresher training is to name the signs and symptoms of operational stress

and how to assist in the early management. This will give the CLS an opportunity to stay current in their training in Combat Stress management and will help to ensure that they are better able to function as the first line of defense and help for their fellow soldiers with combat or operational stress.

Each week's topics will change from the previous weeks. Recurrent themes will include: stress management, stress monitor checklists, self relaxation techniques and other simple, readily taught concepts that can go a long way to helping the CLS and his fellow soldiers cope with the challenges of peacekeeping operational stress.

The purpose of these refresher classes is to maximize the CSC's ability to care for the members of Task Force Falcon. When the CLS have a better understanding of combat and operational stress, it helps their units maintain full operational capability by

being aware of potential problems in the unit. This will help to ensure soldiers are referred to the proper agencies and help the CLS help to conserve the fighting strength.

The expectation of all actively certified CLS is attending at least two half-hour sessions in each calendar month. High operational tempo may make that level of participation of attendance a challenge.

However, just like PMCS for your vehicles, neglecting the signs and symptoms of early stress in an individual or unit, can easily result in needless breakdown in mission effectiveness, not just individual soldier distress and suffering.

All CLS and any other soldiers and leaders interested in making the best of the latest on stress management, are welcome to attend as often as possible.

For further information, please call 781-3170 at CBS and 782-7060 at CMT.

## The Task Force Rumor Round-Up

**Story by Maj. Norman Johnson  
358th MPAD Commander**

The latest rumor circulating around Task Force Falcon is that we will be eating MREs for our meals soon.

This rumor may have spawned from the closure of the border by Macedonian citizens, the sign on the front door of the dining facility that says "Due to ration delays, all menu choices will be reduced substantially effective 23 August," or from the reduced selection of chili, potatoes, ice cream, sodas, etc. that we have been accustomed to receiving.

Wherever the rumor came from, the Task Force Falcon Command Sergeant Major, Marvin Hill, states that this rumor is totally false. "It is true that the blockage of the logistical supply line from FYROM to Camp Bondsteel has caused us to prioritize our re-supply efforts here at Camp Bondsteel, but we are not planning on going to MREs."

"We bring in what we absolutely need and sodas and ice cream are not on the list," said Hill. "We prioritized our re-supply efforts and our choice was between chicken or ice cream, vegetables or Pepsi. The choice was clear."

Supplies are currently being brought into Camp Bondsteel via CH-47 Chinook helicopter and also by rail. According to Hill, we should see a change in the amount and selection with in the next 48-72 hours.





## Chaplain's Corner

# Despite the lack of tags people are still "Made by God"

**Story by Cpt. Eddie Kinely  
3rd LTF Battalion Chaplain**

You can find it on any label, sometimes in bold print or hidden in obscurity, but it is always there. I am not sure whether it is a law or not, but I think perhaps there are some regulations involved in the process. On these labels you will find the location of the manufactured item. Some state: Made in the USA, Japan or some other foreign country.

Yet, when I woke this morning no label was attached to my body acknowledging the manufacturer. But the Bible is clear: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." —Psalms 139:14. Each time I learn something new about the human body I must praise God for his act of creation.

All you need to do is look at the details of the anatomy and you are forced to recognize that the designs of the body did not occur from a mere accident or incident. We are made from the hand of God.

Did you know the body tells you when it is thirsty? This process is known as Water Rationing Signals, which is nothing more than a hydro-alarm system going off in the body telling you it's thirsty. These signals are dyspepsia, rheumatoid arthritis, back pain, headaches and even leg pains. Can this warning process be a mere accident? I beg to differ, so does the Bible. In the first book of the

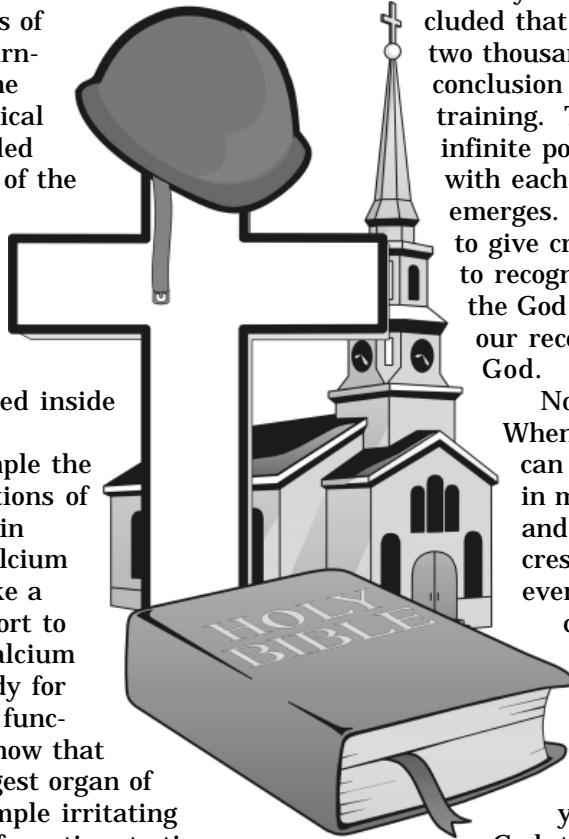
Bible, Genesis, we are told that God made man from the dust of the earth. All the details we see, all the intricacies we cannot explain in the human body were created by an intelligence that man cannot perceive in spite of his years of technology and learning. This is why the most brilliant medical minds remain baffled with various parts of the human anatomy and its functions. But there is a God who lives and reigns, which is familiar with everything he placed inside our beings.

Take for example the magnificent operations of the brain. The brain amazingly pulls calcium out of the bones like a computer in an effort to keep circulating calcium throughout the body for normal day-to-day functioning. Did you know that the skin is the largest organ of elimination? A simple irritating rash that pops up from time to time serves a vital purpose. It is designed to get toxins out of the body through the pores. So the next time you notice an annoying redness

of the skin, remember the body is detoxifying itself.

David, the author of the Psalms, possessed no medical degrees, had access to no anatomy and physiological studies, concluded that we are wonderfully made. Over two thousand years ago he came to this conclusion with no medical experience or training. Today we have access to the infinite possibilities of the human body and with each passing day new revelation emerges. But in our stubbornness we fail to give credit where credit is due. We fail to recognize the awesome creative act of the God of heaven and earth. We fail in our recognition because we cannot see God.

Now I see Him every morning. When I stretch and begin running I can see Him. He is in my limbs and in my heart. He is in my circulation and breathing. God is visible on the crest of the mountains each and every morning. In the moonlight you can see Him in the brilliance of the stars glistening overhead like diamonds on black velvet. I can see Him because I choose to see Him. Those who refuse to see Him never will. Open your eyes this day and observe God; the serenity of nature. Notice the marvel of his handwork as you observe the details of your body and you will also discover like David that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Be relentless!



## Engineers make the vision of weapon ranges a reality

**Story and photos by  
Spc. Scott Holdsworth  
358th MPAD**

From moving ground to building bridges to making weapon ranges the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion does it all.

A Company of the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion finished the second of the two weapon ranges they were tasked to create. The ranges were the vision of Brig. Gen. Bill David, commander of Multinational Brigade East.

"The best force protection in the world is a soldier who possesses supreme confidence in his ability to hit what he shoots at the first time and every time," said David.

"This is his vision that we're making a reality," said Capt. Murphy, A Company commander.

The main reason for the new ranges was to allow soldiers greater access to weapon ranges, particularly those that work and reside in remote outposts, said 1st Lt. Cathy Bright, a planner with Assistant Task Force Engineers.

After coming to Kosovo it didn't take David long to figure out that the soldiers simply were not firing their weapons enough. The primary reason for this was that there were not



Spc. Mark Gonzalez from 11th Engineer Battalion works on a weapons ranges while local children walk behind.

enough small arms ranges.

These are ranges that platoon leaders and platoon sergeants could take their soldiers out to without having to go through a big bureaucracy and do simple target practice. They could also practice on reflexive fire techniques, recon-firm battlesight zeroes, or just plain shoot.

There are many units involved with building weapon ranges.

A Company of the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion has built two and B Company of the 37th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), who is attached to the 11<sup>th</sup> during

this rotation has built one range. The two weapon ranges were built near the towns of Vlastica and Podgrade.

So David and other leaders embarked on a campaign to build ranges - lots of ranges. Kosovo is an operational environment where, if soldiers are required to shoot their weapons, they will be doing so against targets at close range.

For this reason, they concentrated on building 25-meter ranges.

"They are cheap, easy and quick to build, and they fit the requirement to a T," said David.

"Ideally, I'd like our combat soldiers, those actively involved at the point of the spear, to be able to fire their weapons once every couple of weeks."

It would be sufficient for combat support and combat service support soldiers also to practice once every six weeks.

"The important thing is that everyone, regardless of rank or MOS, needs to be a good shot. And you only become a good shot by shooting," said David. "This, and being physically fit, are every soldier's most critical personal tasks. One shot, one kill, the first time, every time. This is the goal. And you just have to be relentless in trying to achieve it."

Not only is it a benefit to all who will use the ranges, but this is a great way for the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion to practice their main skill, which is using the construction equipment.

"I think this will help a lot. Gen. David wants to get soldiers to fire their weapons once every couple weeks. It will let us to do earth moving work with the equipment and it lets us utilize the equipment. At the same time, it will provide a construction project that benefits the whole Task Force," Murphy said.

The average time to build one of these ranges was from 48 to 72 hours.



# Peace is serious business for 3-69th FA

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Engels Tejada  
358th MPAD**

After three months of continuous vigilance in Cernica, Kosovo, soldiers of the 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor were forced to virtually lock down the town, and ensure that the proper message was sent to the local residents.

Since the middle of May, the "Speed and Power" soldiers of B Company, 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor, have provided security and a military presence for Cernica, an ethnically mixed town with a population of approximately 2,600.

Generally, the citizens of the town have been very cooperative, and only minor incidents have occurred compared to the history of troubles in that sector. But as the soldiers of the 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor hit the halfway mark of their tour of duty in Kosovo, they faced a challenge posed by a few extremists in the town.

"In the last few days, unfortunately, we had to impose a lock down in town because of race related attacks," said Capt. Kelvin Brown, commander of B Company, 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor. "We had to send a message out that KFOR is serious about providing a safe and secure environment for Serbs and Albanians."

Brown referred to a few grenade incidents aimed at "trying to get the Serbs to leave the town."

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Aaron Byrd, fire support and information operations officer with B Company, 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor, said, since the unit's arrival to Cernica, soldiers have found about five grenades; and within the past week, there were two grenades that actually exploded.

One of the grenades re-

sulted in the injury of an elderly couple. The couple was treated at Camp Bondsteel's medical facility. As the incidents continued, the 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor command decided to impose the lock down.

No one was allowed to enter or leave the village without permission from KFOR starting Aug. 12.

"We hope that we can, on the one hand determine who has committed these crimes, and on the other hand deter further acts of violence," said Maj. Jim Blackburn, 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor executive officer.

Troops in charge of patrolling the area said that the curfew was necessary and an efficient way to deal with the situation.

Spc. Jude Green, a soldier with B Company of 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor, said, "You tell them to stay inside and they all want to come out. You ask them what happened and they all say 'we don't know nothing.'"

Pvt. Danniell King, a mechanized infantry soldier with B Company, 3-7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment attached to 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor, said that he hoped the lock down would help to find whoever is responsible for the grenades. He said that KFOR would be able to find the individual if the people of the town were not as afraid of telling what they've seen.

"I was about 120 meters away from where the grenade was. We went over there and there was a man working outside. He was about 40 meters [from the grenade], so he probably saw something. But when they asked him he said he didn't see anything," said King.

Although he believes that the soldiers are not targets for the people committing these acts of violence, the grenades do present a threat to himself and his fellow soldiers.

"I don't think I'm in danger, but they could throw [a grenade] at night not knowing that we are there and hit us; so I just want to know who is doing this," said King.

During the lock down, citizens were not allowed to leave their homes and only after the second day were the people allowed to go grocery shopping or visit friends for a few hours. The 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor provided emergency medical care for the town throughout the closure.

A few people were arrested for attempting to violate the curfew.

Staff Sgt. Michael Hurtado, a patrol leader with B Company of 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor, said that one individual attempted to run over a soldier with his vehicle at a checkpoint near the entrance to the town.

Then, the individual fled the scene and was quickly stopped by a support element down the road. Hurtado followed the fugitive and soon detained him. Two days later, Hurtado's team also detained a man wanted by KFOR.

On the fourth day, the lock down was replaced by a curfew from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Lt. Col. David Bishop, commander of 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor, said, "The closure was lifted for two reasons: Local Serbian and Albanians leaders agreed to conduct joint patrols with KFOR soldiers throughout the city, and an anonymous tip was given to the Italian MSU police leading to the confiscation of several weapons."

The 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armor, KFOR's explosive ordnance detachment and the MSU police found one machine gun; five rifles; two pistols; three grenades, three rifle grenades; one grenade case; and about 250 rounds of small arms ammunition hidden under a

bridge covered with corn stalks.

Furthermore, the local leaders went on several "joint patrols" with Brown throughout the town, thus sending a positive message to the community.

"As you can see tonight we have a patrol with Serbs. This is actually my third joint patrol," Brown said. "We've had some Albanian leaders with us as well. I think this is a step in the right direction. We still have a long way to go, we have a very long way to go. But the cooperation is here now. Every night they come on patrol with us, it tells the people that there is cooperation between Serbs, Albanians and KFOR."

"The patrols are very important and nothing bad can come out of them," said a Serbian leader after a walk through town with Brown. "It is important to have joint patrols so that we (both leaders) can look at each other in the eyes and help to solve a lot of things."

"The work is strenuous; I'm not going to tell you it's not," said Brown. "But my soldiers are trained and they believe in what they are doing. They believe in the mission here. They are not getting that much sleep, but you go around and you talk to them, they are motivated; and they are doing an outstanding job. I couldn't be more proud of any my soldiers."

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Chadler, platoon sergeant with 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, B Company, 3-7<sup>th</sup> Infantry, said that on average, the soldiers are working 16 hours per day, with less than eight hours of "downtime."

Russell said that the few extremists are making a grave mistake in trying to "play" with KFOR. "I think they are just trying to test us and we are always ready for that test."

## Cordon and Search

**SEARCH cont. from page 3**

communication between the household and the searcher's instructions. This communication helped ease the concerns of the families after being explained the intention and process of the search.

"I feel safe knowing that they are here and keeping us safe. We know that Americans are protecting us, and we are not afraid of them," said Rexhie Mehmeti, a mother of seven who waited outside her home while her husband worked with the soldiers inside.

Even the early morning hour didn't deter the generally positive attitude that the soldiers received. The heads of households worked with the TFF

soldiers with relatively good cooperation.

"We are used to getting up before the sun to work the farm anyway," Mehmeti said.

The searches are conducted in the morning for various reasons. One reason was to avoid most of the heat of the day. Soldiers wear a heavy protective uniform that requires more physical exertion to move efficiently.

They used the cool of the morning to help avoid heat injuries that might accompany such exertion on a hot day.

However, the HHC of the 2-502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment completed their day with a hike across the Vitina municipality. The



A soldier uses a metal detector to search for weapons in a ten-foot-high haystack.

unplanned hike through the mountains to their Chinook pickup site left all the soldiers soaked with sweat but feeling good.

"I love this stuff. I don't want to stop, we can do the 32 miles back to Bondsteel!" was uttered by a soldier before slumping

down in exhaustion on the pickup hill.

The heat of the day and the weight of the equipment had the soldiers drinking bottles upon bottles of water to stay hydrated, but the hike ended with the soldiers still joking and taunting

each other to go on some more.

The cordon and search that day ended with more than just the successful collection of illegal items hidden in homes, but another successful day for a soldier in the United States Army.



# 391st MPs keep a vigilant eye on the detention facility

**Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer  
358th MPAD**

As a nine-year-old, Sgt. Ray Etheridge wanted to be a police officer. He never imagined during the carefree days of his youth that he would find himself in a foreign land guarding detainees.

Etheridge, with the 391<sup>st</sup> Military Police Detachment from Columbus, Ohio, is serving in Kosovo as part of Operation Joint Guardian.

The 391<sup>st</sup> provided nearly 50 soldiers, including 14 augmentees, to operate the Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility. The facility houses detainees considered to be a threat to a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

Although they are called detainees, they still act like prisoners, says the Detention Facility Commander Cpt. Gary Link from Miamisburg, Ohio.

"The detainees act like prisoners in how they treat the detention facility staff and how they try and manipulate the staff," said Link who is a deputy warden in Dayton, Ohio, and has 20 years experience with the Ohio Department of Corrections. "They adapt a basic prisoner mentality."

With 24 years of military police experience, 10 as an enlisted soldier and 14 as an officer, Link worked with Iraqi prisoners during Desert Storm. Although the number of prisoners were much higher during Desert Storm compared to the number of detainees the detention facility houses at Camp Bondsteel, "the Iraqi prisoners act the same as the detainees do," Link said.

All of the soldiers working at the facility are military policemen and volunteered to support the mission in Kosovo. Six have civilian department of corrections experience and four have civilian law enforcement experience.

"All of the soldiers have adapted well to the mission," Link said. "I am very honored to serve with them."

Although Link said his wife, Ruthanne, did not like the idea that he was going to live halfway around the world for six months, he said he was asked to come and "as corny as it may sound — I am patriotic."

The unit attended a two-week mission rehearsal exercise to become familiar with possible scenarios previously experienced by past Kosovo rotations and to help the group understand the challenges they could face in the Balkan region.

Shortly before the 391<sup>st</sup> arrived at Camp

Bondsteel, a detainee escaped from the facility. After his arrival, Link directed that several physical security changes be made to enhance the security of the facility.

Link said it was also important to replace the wooden-plank walkways because the planks could be used to hide contraband or be used as battering rams. Link did credit previous detention facility operators with doing an excellent job of laying the groundwork for managing the facility.

Etheridge, an AT&T employee, thought the experience would be interesting and wanted the opportunity to train overseas and develop as a noncommissioned officer.

The experience is also beneficial for Etheridge as he has experienced many facets of the Army coming together. Etheridge's ultimate goal is to become a Columbus police officer.

However, the competition for jobs is fierce. He said that the last time the police department accepted applications it received about 3,900 applications for 300 positions. He is in the Army Reserve to get the experience that would help him land a position in his hometown.

"I know what we are doing is helping the people of Kosovo," said Etheridge with some satisfaction. "My girlfriend Shana didn't want me to go to Kosovo, but she knew it was something I wanted to do and she stood by my decision."

Spc. Michael Cox from Chillicothe, Ohio, is a hazardous materials student at Ohio University. He wanted to come to Kosovo because he thought it would be a good experience to see another part of the world.

As part of that experience Cox is learning some Albanian language here. He is taking a language class through the education center along with nine other soldiers from his unit.

"It helps us do our job because we can talk with the detainees and know what they want without needing an interpreter," said Cox.

Shortly after arriving in Kosovo, Cox put his new language skills to the test when he escorted 20 detainees from Camp Bondsteel to a NATO operated detention facility. As important as it was to Cox to escort the detainees, it was just as memorable for him to take a ride on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter that transported the group.

No matter if their reasons are for professional growth, patriotism, to see the world, or a number of other possible motives, the soldiers of the 391<sup>st</sup> Military Police Detachment are helping Task Force Falcon provide the citizens of Kosovo a safer place to live.



Spc. Charles Jones, 391<sup>st</sup> Military Police Battalion, watches over the Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility compound from a guard tower.

## Soccer games bring soldiers together

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Travis Bascom  
358th MPAD**

This weekend at Camp Monteith the 3-7th Infantry Regiment Headhunters played toe to toe against the TRW Interpreters in this month's tournament soccer championship. As dust flew everywhere marking the path of the players struggle for the ball, a very tight game ensued.

The Headhunters lead by one point throughout most of the game until TRW tied the score in the

second half, moving the game into penalty kicks where TRW took out the Headhunters 4-3.

The competition can help soldiers learn to function as a single unit, as well as make life a little more enjoyable during their deployment.

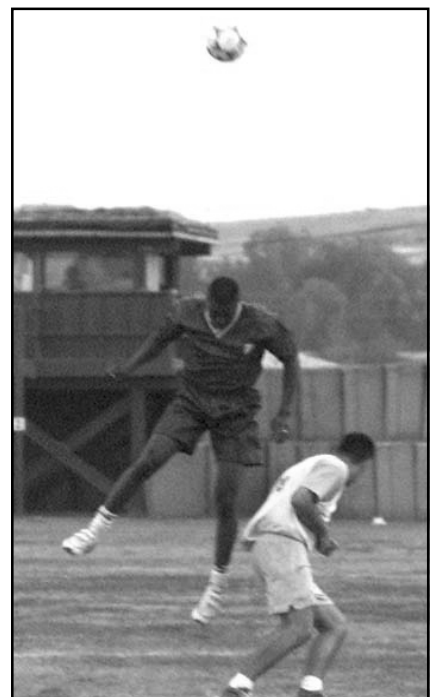
"It's good camaraderie, relaxation, as well as good physical activity. We enjoy that very much. It's good for the whole camp and good for the whole team," said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Christopher Gilpin, 3-7th Infantry Regiment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, a member of the Headhunters.

"After the games we usually shake hands with the opposing team players and get together," said Gilpin.

"The games take a lot of stress off of what we're doing here. It makes it fun," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Andrew Valles, 3-7th Infantry Regiment, HHC. "The Games are pretty intense. Everyone wants to win and that makes for a good game."

The single elimination tournament had three other participating teams. They were, Burger King, 3<sup>rd</sup> LTF and AAFES and included over 100 participants, spectators and staff.

*right: 1st Sgt. Christopher Gilpin, heads for the Headhunters.*





# TFF says goodbye to Nancy with style



Spc. Darnell Fuller from team Temptations jumps to spikes the ball home in an effort to even the score.



Nancy Ray recieves a goodbye hug from one of volleyball players.



Master Sgt. Carl Clark gives Nancy Ray a hug after recieving a first place medal for the run.



Team Temptation puts the ball over the net as Team Falcon moves to block.



Nancy Ray starts the run strong surrounded by friends.



Team Falcon hits another ball over to ultimately seal the casket on Team Temptation.



Nancy Ray cuts the cake with a saber at her going away party after the 5 km. run Aug. 18.